

AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

[Deleted material is struck-through and added material is underlined]

1.-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) A hammer for releasably retaining nails of varying sizes, said hammer comprising:

a handle;

a hammerhead, affixed to said handle, ~~with a striking face and one of~~

~~a partially flattened hammerhead bottom side surface or said partially flattened hammerhead bottom side surface in combination with partially flattened hammerhead left and right side surfaces, each side surface having predetermined sized~~ a plurality of nail-retention grooves of predetermined sizes located on flattened side surfaces of said hammerhead configured so as to align corresponding selected nails toward a nail striking orientation ~~said striking face~~; wherein each of said nail-retention grooves is dimensioned to releasably accept both a shaft of a nail and a head of a nail, each of said grooves comprising ~~with:~~

a partially cylindrical nail body groove portion of substantially uniform radius within said side surface;

a nail-head groove portion contiguous to said partially cylindrical nail body groove portion configured such that the ~~a nail~~ head of the nail is partially enveloped by said nail-head groove portion;

~~means for dampening recoil shock from hammer striking impact, said means~~ comprising at least one groove on at least one of said side surfaces or on an upper side surface of said ~~a hammerhead upper side surface~~ or any combination thereof, said at least one groove being transversely oriented across said side surfaces;

and

a magnetic core, disposed within said hammerhead, in magnetic communication with each of said nail-retention grooves.

28. (Previously Presented) The hammer of claim 27 wherein said magnetic core comprises multiple magnets, wherein each of said nail retention grooves includes at least one magnet embedded therein.

29. (Previously Presented) The hammer of claim 27, wherein said nail-head groove portion is partially frustoconical shaped.

30. (Previously Presented) The hammer of claim 27, further comprising:

a pair of flared claws with an inner side portion height and an outer side portion height, wherein said inner side portion height is greater than said outer side portion height such that a rounded upper surface of said flared claws slants downward with respect to a longitudinal median of said hammerhead top surface;

said claws each having a claw end defining an interior nail removal void with a width that diminishes into said hammerhead, each of said nail removal voids forming an axis of substantial symmetry that converges with the other,

wherein each of said nail-removal voids is transversely angled such that said nail removal void includes a variable elevation that allows said nail-removal void to be substantially co-planar with the nail-removal surface while said hammerhead is rolled from said claw toward said striking face along said rounded upper surface.

31. (Previously Presented) The hammer of claim 30, wherein said rounded upper surface possesses a degree of rounding that continues from said claws to said striking face.

32. (Canceled)